UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,642	01/18/2002	Steven C. Bailey	020431.0834	5633

5073   7590   06/04/2004

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
2001 ROSS AVENUE
SUITE 600
DALLAS, TX   75201-2980

EXAMINER
LEWIS, CHERYL RENEA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2177	6

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/052,642	BAILEY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Cheryl Lewis	2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _18 January 2002_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-37_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-37_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _5_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-37 are presented for examination.

PRIORITY

2.   Applicants have complied and receive the benefit of priority of an earlier filing

date to application 60/205,602, filed May 18, 2000; 60/263,036, filed January 18, 2001;

and 60/263,041, filed January 18, 2001.

Drawings

3.   The applicants' drawings have been approved by the draftsperson.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

4.   The information disclosure statements filed on January 18, 2002, paper no. 5,

complies with the provisions of MPEP § 609. They have been placed in the application

file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.　　Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowen et al. (Pat. No. 6,094,649 filed December 22, 1997, hereinafter Bowen) and Noguchi et al. (Pat. No. 5,706,496 filed February 14, 1996, hereinafter Noguchi).

7.　　Regarding Claims 1, 13, 25, and 37, Bowen teaches keyword searches of structured databases.

The method and associated system for keyword searches of structured databases as taught or suggested by Bowen includes:

a database (Abstract, lines 1-4, col. 7, lines 52-67, col. 8, lines 1-10) comprising information associated with items for which a search may be performed (col. 8, lines 1-10 and 46-67, col. 11, lines 52-67, col. 12, lines 1-8); a server system (figure 1, element 102, col. 7, lines 4-19) associated with one or more software components (col. 7, lines 4-44); a desire to view attribute values (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40) for attributes (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40) of the particular matching item (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40), determine attribute names (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40) and attribute values (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40, '...Domains menu...field values...') for attributes of the particular matching item (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40); and determine attribute names (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40, '...column names...') and attribute values (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40) for the particular matching item for display to the user (col. 15, lines 11-67, col. 16, lines 1-40).

However, Bowen does not expressly teach specifying an alphanumeric string.

Noguchi teaches user input (figure 6, element 41, col. 12, lines 35-52) specifying an alphanumeric string (col. 12, lines 35-67) associated with a desired item (col. 12, lines 35-67, col. 13, lines 1-62), search for an alphanumeric string (col. 13, lines 1-67, col. 14, lines 1-67, col. 17, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 1-53) that matches the user-specified alphanumeric string (col. 13, lines 1-67, col. 14, lines 1-67, col. 17, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 1-53) to determine items names ('...dictionary word...', col. 13, lines 1-67, col. 14, lines 1-67, col. 17, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 1-53) and item descriptions ('...text position...', col. 13, lines 1-67, col. 14, lines 1-67, col. 17, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 1-53) for all matching items corresponding to the matching alphanumeric string (col. 13, lines 1-67, col. 14, lines 1-67, col. 17, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 1-53); provide the determined item names ('...dictionary word...', col. 13, lines 1-67, col. 14, lines 1-67, col. 17, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 1-53) and item descriptions ('...text position...', col. 13, lines 1-67, col. 14, lines 1-67, col. 17, lines 1-67, col. 18, lines 1-53) for the matching items for display to the user (figure 6, element 50, col. 12, lines 35-46).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the keyword searches of Bowen's method with Noguchi's method of a full-text search because Noguchi's method of a full-text search could provide the keyword search method of Bowen's method to comprise a text search that utilizes a character string, wherein the character string of the text search derives a set of text position values expressing all positions of occurrence within an object text of a character string which is specified as a search string, the text position reference in an

index file comprising words which each occurs as the maximum length word or as an extension word (see Noguchi, col. 7, lines 3-22).

8.   Regarding Claims 2-12, 14-24, 26-38, Bowen et al. and Noguchi et al. disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), in addition, Bowen teaches a first, second, third, and fourth table (col. 9, lines 15-38, col. 14, lines 1-15) comprising rows (col. 6, lines 35-54, col. 9, lines 24-35, col. 10, lines 37-46) each corresponding to a keyword (col. 7, lines 63-67, col. 8, lines 1-10 and 31-65, col. 9, lines 24-38, col. 10, lines 37-58, col. 11, lines 12-67, col. 12, lines 1-15)/item (col. 7, lines 63-67, col. 8, lines 1-10 and 31-65, col. 9, lines 24-38, col. 10, lines 37-58, col. 11, lines 12-67, col. 12, lines 1-15) comprising a name for an item (Abstract, lines 1-13, col. 6, lines 4-34, col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-8, col. 15, lines 11-49) an identifier to identify a keyword (Abstract, lines 1-13, col. 6, lines 4-34, col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-8, col. 15, lines 11-49), and the identifier for the keyword corresponding to the item (Abstract, lines 1-13, col. 6, lines 4-34, col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-8, col. 15, lines 11-49), a name for the keyword (Abstract, lines 1-13, col. 6, lines 4-34, col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-8, col. 15, lines 11-49), a keyword corresponding to one or more items (Abstract, lines 1-13, col. 6, lines 4-34, col. 9, lines 60-67, col. 10, lines 1-8, col. 15, lines 11-49).

CONCLUSION

9.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

A.   Yokoyama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,978,800) discloses a method of

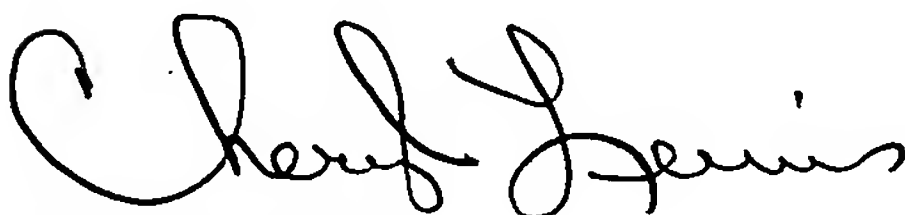searching data for a given character string.

NAME OF CONTACT

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (703) 305-

8750. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

(703) 746-5651 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for

"INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal

paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-

3900.

Cheryl Lewis
Patent Examiner
May 28, 2004